Release of telephone connections in J & K

1146. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is backlog for telephone connections under the Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle since the last three years;

(b) the reasons for non-fulfilment of demands of these consumers in the waiting list and what policy is adopted to give telephone connections;

(c) the number of telephone connections likely to be provided within next three years; and

(d) whether it would be sufficient to cope with the waiting list problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total number of applicant in waiting list as on 30.06.2005 is 74,251.

(b) The waitlisted applicants could not be provided telephone connections due to area being technically non-feasible. WLL has been planned to cover all the 34 SDCAs. 106 Nos. of WLL BTS for a total capacity of 79,500 lines has been allotted to J & K Telecom Circle for the year 2005-2006.

(c) BSNL is working on internal targets as detailed below to meet the demand.

Sl. No.	Year	Target		
		Basic (Wired Line +WLL)	Cellular Mobile	Year wise total
1.	2005-06	51,000	3,50,000	4,01,000
2.	2006-07	52,000	4,02,800	4,54,800
3.	2007-08	60,000	3,66,100	4,26,100
	TOTAL	1,63,000	11,18,900	12,81,900

(d) While BSNL is making all out efforts to provide telephone connections on demand, the following specific problems may hamper our efforts:

(i) Poor power supply from State electricity board.

(ii) Restriction for stalling mobile and WLL BTS in border areas due to security reason.

(iii) Fear of militancy among staff posted in J & K.

(iv) Difficulty in getting land and building due to Article 370.

(v) Poor response from contractors and suppliers to work in J & K due to militancy.

(vi) Tough climate conditions and insurgency.

(vii) Difficult and inaccessible hilly terrain.

Reduction of monthly rent

1147. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai separately during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the monthly rent of telephones of MTNL in order to increase the number of subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Number of working connections in MTNL during the last three years, including landline, WLL, GSM are as under:—

As on	Delhi	Mumbai
31-03-2003	2327276	2654721
31-03-2004	2172744	2661742
31-03-2005	2256800	2896683

(b) to (d) Sir, MTNL has been revising its tariff including rental from time to time for remaining competitive as well as keeping in view the market conditions.

Availability of SIM cards in Tamil Nadu

1148. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: